

From: [Drabek, Anna](#)
To: [Roman, Rachel](#)
Cc: [Rivera, Jose](#); [Rodriguez, Nancy](#); [Beca-Barragan, Renata](#); [Byck, Sabina](#)
Subject: RE: Inquiry about WQS in Cueva Las Golondrinas (Aguadilla PR)
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 7:44:38 AM

Saludos Rachel!

Thanks for writing to ask about the status of the water body surrounding Cuevas las Golondrinas. Hearing about animal deaths and water contamination resulting from construction on the cave is concerning to us.

The water body adjoining Cuevas Las Golondrinas is the Atlantic Ocean, and it is classified per the [Puerto Rico Water Quality Standards](#) as Class SB, "Coastal waters and estuarine waters intended for use in primary and secondary contact recreation, and for propagation and maintenance of desirable species, including threatened or endangered species" (p. 36, full description on p. 25).

The established Water Quality Standards for all Puerto Rico water bodies begin on p. 27 of the hyperlinked document, and additional standards for Class SB begin on p. 36.

Please know that our program team is actively conducting assessments and investigations of the earth movement and construction activities at parcels of land near Cuevas Las Golondrinas in order to determine the applicability of NPDES regulations and compliance with the Clean Water Act. EPA will share any updates on these assessments and investigations as soon as we complete them.

Please let me know if you have any other questions or would like to schedule a call to discuss further.

All the best,

Anna

From: Roman, Rachel <Rachel.Roman@mail.house.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 2:18 PM
To: Drabek, Anna <drabek.anna@epa.gov>
Cc: Rivera, Jose <Rivera.Jose@epa.gov>; Rodriguez, Nancy <Rodriguez.Nancy@epa.gov>; Beca-Barragan, Renata <Renata.Beca-Barragan@mail.house.gov>
Subject: Inquiry about WQS in Cueva Las Golondrinas (Aguadilla PR)

Hi all –

I hope you are doing well. I am writing to you because we are concerned about the environmental situation in Cueva Las Golondrinas, Aguadilla, and have some inquiries.

Several stakeholders from Puerto Rico have let us know, with photographic evidence, that the

construction work on the top of the cave has continued, causing the death of endangered species and contamination of the water. This keeps happening despite the fact that [the DNER ordered the demolition of the structures](#).

We would like to know what the classification of the affected water body is, and if quality standards have been established for it, of which the EPA has knowledge and/or jurisdiction under the NPDES.

We appreciate your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,
Rachel

Rachel A. Román Villalobos

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